

“DSS on the Go” Resource Guide

NOAA/NWS does not officially endorse any programs in this guide

The online version of this guide can be found at: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/images/dmx/DSSResGuide.pdf>

Google Earth

Setup and Helpful Tips

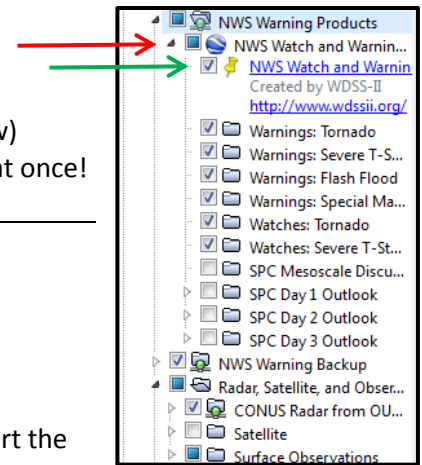
Program can be downloaded from: <http://www.google.com/earth/index.html>

By default, Google Earth starts off in a zoomed-out view of the Northern Hemisphere. To have it permanently start up viewing at a different angle or zoom level, zoom to the location and level you wish, then go to *View -> Make this my start location*.

On the left side of the main window is a vertical bar broken down into three sections: *Search*, *Places*, and *Layers*. Any files you load into Google Earth will show up under the *Places* section.

Many layers are grouped into folders and subfolders

- To expand a folder, click the triangle next to its name (red arrow)
- To turn a layer on or off, click the checkbox next to its name (green arrow)
- If you check a folder, all the layers in that folder will be turned on or off at once!



To add an automatically updating layer from a website to Google Earth

1. Right click the link on the website and select...
 - a. In Firefox: *Copy Link Location*
 - b. In Internet Explorer: *Copy Shortcut*
 - c. In Chrome: *Copy Link Address*
2. In Google Earth, click the location/folder in the *Places* panel you want to insert the file, then go to *Add -> Network Link*.
3. Give the link a name in the *Name* field and paste what you copied from the internet browser in the *Link* field.
4. Click the *Refresh* tab and under *Time-Based Refresh*, select *Periodically* from the drop down menu. Then enter how often you want the file to refresh using the boxes to the right.
5. Click *OK* and you're done!

KML/KMZ File Locations

NWS Des Moines – http://www.crh.noaa.gov/images/dmx/Wx_Overlays.kmz

Pre-built file with many of the overlays from the below sites included. No need to load the file using the procedure outlined above. Just click the link, open in Google Earth, and enjoy!

Primary NWS KML Repository – <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/gis/kml/>

SPC outlooks, current conditions, radar, fire weather outlooks, climate outlooks, and much more!

NWS Radar KML Generator – <http://radar.weather.gov/ridge/kmzgenerator.php>

Generate KML files for individual radar sites and different radar products.

NSSL Radar and Warning KML Generator – <http://wdssii.nssl.noaa.gov/?r=products>

Generate radar/satellite images and loops, watches/warnings, storm reports, and surface observations.

Fire Weather KML Files – <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ridge2/fire/>

A collection of various fire weather-related KML files such as current red flag warnings, spot forecast locations, outlooks, and precipitation forecasts.

River Gauges – http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/ahps_kml.php?wfo=dmx&fcst_type=obs

Latest river gauge levels and forecasts for Iowa.



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----- Gibson Ridge Programs -----

Setup and Helpful Tips

Gibson Ridge Website: <http://www.grlevelx.com/>

GRLevel3: Price \$80 - http://www.grlevelx.com/grlevel3_2/


User's Manual: http://www.grlevelx.com/manuals/grlevel3_2/index.htm

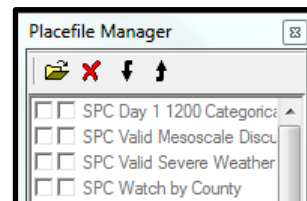
GREarth: Price \$180/yr - <http://www.grlevelx.com/grearth/>, <https://www.grearth.co>

User's Manual: <http://www.grlevelx.com/manuals/grearth/index.htm>

How to Load Placefiles

Go to the *Windows* menu in the program and ensure that *Show Placefile Manager* is checked. A small box should pop up once it is checked (right image).

Click the  icon in the window that opens. Copy in the web address of the placefile (see the list of web pages with placefiles further down the page) and click *OK*. The placefile you loaded will now appear in the window (see example on right).

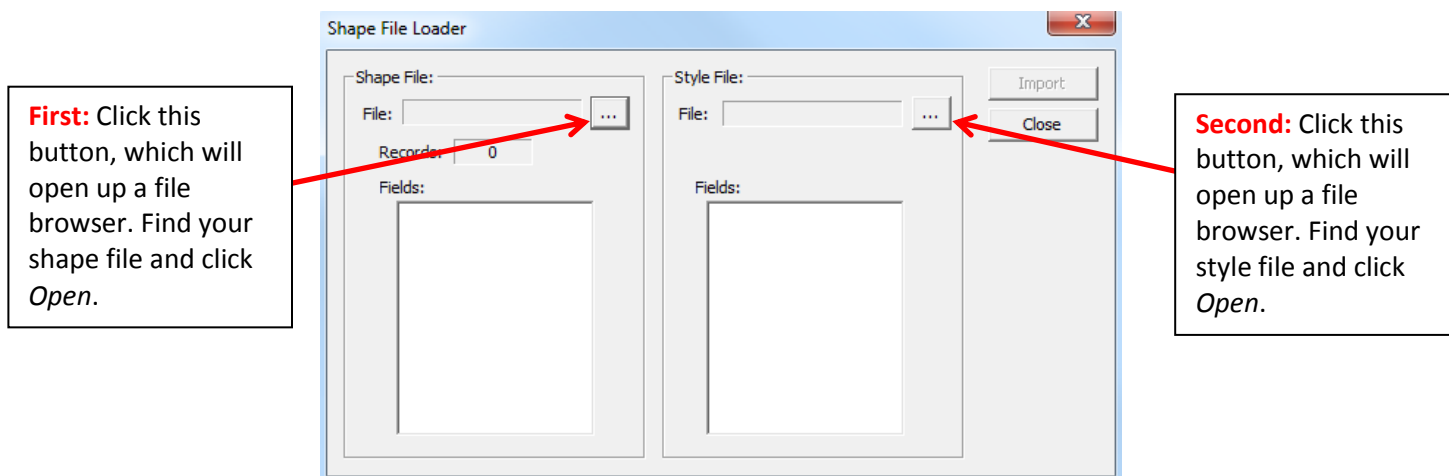


You can organize the placefiles using the   buttons and delete them using the  button.

How to Load Shapefiles

“Shapefiles” will consist of two files: a shape file and style file. You must download the two files (usually zipped together) to your computer.

In the GR program, go to the *GIS -> Load Shapefile*. The window below will open:



After both the shape file and style file are loaded, click the *Import* button and the shapefile will appear on the map.

Placefile (P) /Shapefile (S) Web Locations

(P) SPC Outlooks, Watches, and Discussions: <http://www.tornadocentral.com/grlevelx-placefiles.html>

(P) Iowa Obs and SPC Outlooks/Storm Reports: http://www.meteor.iastate.edu/~ckarsten/chase/GR_Placefiles.php

(P) Iowa Obs and Webcams: <http://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/request/grx>

(S) Upper Midwest Streets: <http://www.meteor.iastate.edu/~slincoln/GRS/shapefiles>



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---- Cell Phone Apps -----

NWS Mobile Website

Address: mobile.weather.gov

Type your city or zip code in the top text field or use the map option to find your location.



- You can select a location from a list of your previous searches below the map.

Click a particular field (Radar, Full Forecast, Rivers/Lakes, etc.) to view more information.

iNWS Mobile Alert

Address: inws.wrh.noaa.gov

You must sign up first before using the service. You will receive an email when your registration has been approved.

<p>iNWS Alert Areas</p> <p> Add New Alert Area</p> <p>Hydrology Alert Points</p> <p> Add New Hydro Point</p>	<p>Add alerts for NWS watches, warnings, and advisories. Choose specific areas and types of alerts to monitor.</p>
	<p>Add alerts for specific river gauges. Choose to receive alerts for changes in observed and/or forecasted flood stages.</p>

Third Party Apps

Radar Apps –

PYKL3 (): <http://www.pykl3radar.com>

Radarscope ( ): <http://www.basevelocity.com/RadarScope>

Warning Apps –

Pro Weather Alert (): <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.globalcanofworms.android.proweatheralert>

WeatherAlerts (): <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/weatheralerts/id417906074?mt=8>

iMap Weather Radio (): <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/imap-weather-radio-nws-weather/id413511993?mt=8>

MyWarn (): <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/mywarn/id498858585?mt=8>

---- Web Resources -----

- **NWS Des Moines DSS Support:** <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/?n=dsscurrent> – includes the latest forecasts, watches, warnings and advisories. You can access information for user-specified locations. Hourly forecasts are available. Enhanced or basic versions of the page are available depending on bandwidth.
- **NWS Des Moines Weather Preparedness:** <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dmx/?n=preparedness> – includes preparedness information that you can use or share. Topics include severe weather, floods and flash floods, winter weather and summer dangers.



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